

Mountain State Reporter

RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2008

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2



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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during December 2007 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was up 8 percent from December 2006 and down 9 percent from November 2007 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,177,000 pounds live weight, up 4 percent from December 2006. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,100 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,036 pounds, was down 24 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 175,000 pounds live weight, up 25 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 263 pounds, was up 10 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States -Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.06 billion pounds in December, up 5 percent from the 3.87 billion pounds produced in December 2006.

Beef production, at 2.06 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.65 million head, up 1 percent from December 2006. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 1,302 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.4 million pounds, 21 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,000 head, down 11 percent from December 2006. The average live weight was down 35 pounds from last year, at 289 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.97 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.69 million head, up 9 percent from December 2006. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.4 million pounds, was down 1 percent from December 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 229,100 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down 1 pound from December a year ago.

January to December 2007 commercial red meat production was 48.7 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

December 2006 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. December 2007 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

CATTLE INVENTORY

West Virginia - Cattle inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2008 totaled 415,000 head, down 5,000 head or 1 percent from the January 1, 2007 inventory of 420,000 head. **All cows and heifers** that have calved totaled 215,000 head, down 10,000 head or 4 percent from January 1, 2007.

Comparing January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2007: **Beef cows** totaled 202,000 head, down 10,000 head; **milk cows** totaled 13,000, unchanged; **all heifers 500 pounds and over** totaled 66,000 head, down 1,000 head; beef replacement heifers totaled 41,000 head, up 2,000 head; milk replacement heifers totaled 4,000 head, unchanged; other heifers totaled 21,000 head, down 3,000 head; **steers 500 pounds and over** totaled 39,000 head, down 1,000 head; **bulls 500 pounds and over** totaled 15,000 head, unchanged; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 80,000, up 7,000 head. **Cattle on feed** for slaughter totaled 5,000 head, down 5,000 head from 2007.

The 2007 **calf crop** totaled 200,000 head, unchanged from the 2006 calf crop.

United States - All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2008, totaled 96.7 million head, slightly below the 97.0 million on January 1, 2007. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 41.8 million, were down 1 percent from the 42.0 million on January 1, 2007.

Comparing January 1, 2008, to January 1, 2007: **Beef cows** totaled 32.6 million head, down 1 percent; **milk cows** totaled 9.22 million, up 1 percent; **all heifers 500 pounds and over** totaled 20.0 million, down slightly; beef replacement heifers, 5.67 million, down 4 percent; milk replacement heifers, 4.46 million, up 3 percent; other heifers, 9.88 million, down slightly; **steers 500 pounds and over** totaled 17.3 million, up slightly; **bulls 500 pounds and over** totaled 2.21 million, down slightly; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 15.4 million, down 1 percent. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, totaled 14.3 million, up slightly. The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots was 28.2 million, down slightly.

The 2007 **calf crop** was estimated at 37.4 million head, down slightly from 2006. **Calves born** during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.2 million, down 1 percent from 2006.

SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY

West Virginia - All sheep and lamb inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2008, was 35,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2007.

Breeding sheep and lamb inventory totaled 30,000 head on January 1, 2008, up 2,000 head from 2007. Ewes, one year and older, at 24,000 head, were up 1,000 head from 2007. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2007. Re-

placement lambs totaled 5,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2007.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2008 totaled 5,000 head, down 1,000 head from January 1, 2007. Market lambs totaled 5,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Of these, 1,500 were under 65 pounds, 1,500 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

The 2007 lamb crop totaled 32,000 head, up 3,000 head from 2006. The 2007 lambing rate was 139 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2007, compared to 132 in 2006.

Shorn wool production during 2007 was 130,000 pounds, down slightly from 2006. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 24,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2006. The average price paid for wool sold in 2007 was \$0.41 per pound for a total value of \$53,000 dollars, down \$11,000 from 2006.

Meat and other goat inventory on January 1, 2008 was estimated at 24,000 head, up 3,000 head from January 1, 2007. **Milk goat** inventory was estimated at 1,800 head, up 100 head from last year. **Angora goat** inventory was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2008, totaled 6.06 million head, down 2 percent from 2007. After consecutive increases in 2005 and 2006, inventory has now declined for the past two years.

Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.51 million head on January 1, 2008, down 2 percent from 4.61 million head on January 1, 2007. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.62 million head, were 2 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2008, totaled 1.55 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2007. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 26 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 36 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings.

The 2007 lamb crop of 4.05 million head, was down slightly from 2006. The 2007 lambing rate was 110 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2007, down 1 percent from 2006.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2007 was 34.5 million pounds, down 4 per-

cent from 2006. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 4.71 million head, down 3 percent from 2006. The average price paid for wool sold in 2007 was \$0.88 per pound for a total value of 30.3 million dollars, up 23 percent from 24.5 million dollars in 2006.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2008, totaled 3.02 million head, up 3 percent from 2007. **Breeding goat inventory** totaled 2.50 million head up 2 percent from 2007. **All market goats and kids** totaled 520,000 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2008 **meat and all other goats** totaled 2.50 million head, up 4 percent from 2007. **Milk goat** inventory increased 4 percent to 305,000 head while **angora goats** were down 12 percent totaling 210,000 head. The 2007 **kid crop** totaled 1.94 million head for all goats, up 1 percent from 2006.

Mohair production in the United States during 2007 was 1.14 million pounds. **Goats and kids clipped** totaled 185,000 head. Average weight per clip was 6.20 pounds. **Mohair price** was \$3.78 per pound with a value of 4.31 million dollars.

CROP VALUES

West Virginia - Corn for grain value of production totaled \$12.6 million in 2007, a 13 percent increase from 2006. The marketing year average price received per bushel for corn was \$4.20, up 63 cents from 2006.

The value of **winter wheat** production in 2007 was \$2.0 million, a 55 percent increase from the 2006 crop. Growers received an average of \$5.70 per bushel for the 2007 crop, up \$2.20 from 2006.

Soybeans value of production totaled \$4.6 million, a 6 percent increase from 2006. The average price received per bushel for soybeans was \$9.90. This was up \$3.50 from the 2006 average price.

The value of **all hay** production totaled \$72.8 million in 2007, 8 percent less than 2006. The average price received per ton was \$79.00, \$3.50 more than the 2006 average price.

The value of **alfalfa hay** production totaled \$8.0 million in 2007, 37 percent less than 2006. The average price received per ton was \$134.00, \$9.00 more than the 2006 average price.

The value of all **other hay** production totaled \$64.7 million in 2007, 2 percent less than 2006. The average price received per ton was \$75.00, \$5.00 more than the 2006 average price.

The 2007 **total value of production of principal crops** (including fruits) was \$102.7 million, down 4

percent from the 2006 value of \$106.5 million, and up 13 percent from the 2005 value of \$90.7 million.

United States Value And Marketing Year Average Price With 2006 Comparisons

- Corn for grain value of production - \$52.09 billion, up 62 percent; \$4.00 per bushel, up 96 cents.
- Winter wheat value of production - \$9.48 billion, up 76 percent; \$6.65 per bushel, up \$2.48.
- Soybeans value of production - \$26.75 billion, up 31 percent; \$10.40 per bushel, up \$3.97.
- All hay value of production - \$16.96 billion, up 23 percent; \$133.00 per ton, up \$23.00.
- Alfalfa hay value of production - \$8.97 billion, up 17 percent; \$138.00 per ton, up \$25.00.
- Other hay value of production - \$7.99 billion, up 30 percent; \$120.00 per ton, up \$17.00.
- All crops (including fruits, nuts and vegetables) value of production - \$162.78 billion, up 33 percent.

FARM NUMBERS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

West Virginia - The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 21,400 in 2007, an increase of 200 farms from 2006. The total land in farms was 3.6 million acres, unchanged from 2006. The average farm size was 168 acres, down 2 acres from 2006.

The West Virginia number of farms in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 economic sales class totaled 17,600, up 100 from 2006. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 2.04 million acres, down 10,000 acres from 2006.

The **number of operations with cattle and calves** totaled 12,500 operations, unchanged from 2006. Beef cow operations totaled 10,800 operations, unchanged from 2006. Milk cow operations totaled 450 operations, down 20 operations from 2006.

The **number of operations with hogs and pigs** totaled 900 operations, unchanged from 2006.

The **number of operations with sheep and lambs** totaled 1,100 operations, unchanged from 2006.

The **number of operations with goats** totaled 2,000 operations, up 100 operations from 2006.

United States - The number of farms in the United States in 2007 is estimated at 2.08 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2006. Total land in farms, at 930.9 million acres, decreased 1.5 million acres, or 0.16 percent, from 2006. The average farm size was 449 acres during 2007, an increase of three acres from the previous year. The decline in the

number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

Compared to 2006, the number of farms in 2007 declined in 26 states, remained unchanged in 16 states and increased in 8 states. The largest decline in the number of farms occurred in Tennessee (losing 2,000 farms), then Georgia (losing 1,500 farms), followed by California, Florida, Kentucky, Oregon, Texas, and Washington (each losing 1,000 farms). The largest increase in the number of farms occurred in New Mexico (gaining 500 farms), then Colorado and Virginia (each gaining 300 farms), followed by Montana and West Virginia (each gaining 200 farms).

The **number of operations with cattle** totaled 967,440 during 2007, down slightly from 2006 and 2 percent below 2005. Beef cow operations in 2007 were down 1 percent from 2006 and 2 percent below 2005. Milk cow operations were 5 percent below last year and 9 percent below two years ago. Texas had the largest number of operations with all cattle with 149,000 operations and also had the largest number of operations with beef cattle with 130,000 operations. Wisconsin had the largest number of milk cow operations with 14,400 operations.

The **number of operations with hogs** totaled 65,640 during 2007, down slightly from 2006 and down 2 percent from 2005. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 82 percent of the inventory. Iowa had the largest number of hog operations with 8,500 operations.

The **number of operations with sheep** totaled 70,590 during 2007, up 2 percent from 2006 and up 3 percent from 2005. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 91.1 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 7.4 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.5 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 30.8 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 23.1 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 46.1 percent of the inventory. Texas had the largest number of sheep operations with 7,300 operations.

The **number of operations with goats** totaled 108,130 during 2007, up 4 percent from 2006. Angora goat operations totaled 4,550, down 4 percent from 2006. Milk goat operations totaled 19,930, up slightly from 2006. Meat goat operations totaled 90,270, up 4 percent from 2006. Texas had the largest number of goat operations with 21,000 operations. Total goat operations will be equal to or less than the sum of angora, milk and meat because places which own more than one goat type only count as one operation. This is the first annual publication of goat operations.

NEXT ISSUE:

**Red Meat Production
Annual Livestock Slaughter
2007 Egg Production
Honey Production**

**GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER
DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR**

**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305**